

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Revenue: At Month 4, the Council is forecasting a full year £19.5m deficit against the revenue budget. The variances are primarily in Adult Social Care (£6.6m), Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (£6.3m) and in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block Offset (£5m). The position is essentially unchanged from Month 3 Contingencies built into the 2021/22 budget exceed the forecast deficit and so a balanced outturn is anticipated. However, it is still the expectation that Directorates manage overspends within their budget envelopes. Directorates are considering mitigating actions to contain the deficit.

Capital: In February, the Council approved a capital budget for 2021/22 of £184.9m. This has been reset to £201.1m to reflect subsequent Cabinet approvals and a reprofiling of schemes based on Quarter 1 forecasts. The Month 4 capital forecast shows forecast spend of £201.5m, a variance of £0.4m. This relates to minor changes across a number of schemes, including £0.4m acceleration of vehicle replacement in Community Protection.

Budget approach - Track 1 & 2: In the 2021/22 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26 report to Council in February, the budget gap for 2022/23 was estimated at £47.1m. The gap is projected to reach c.£200m by the end of the five-year Medium-Term Financial Strategy period. Recent iterations of the budget planning work have recognised increased complexity and costs in Adult Social Care and increased numbers of Looked After Children, both partly as a result of the ongoing impact of Covid-19. These issues, alongside a review of wider pressures and funding forecasts will be set out in the 2022/23 Draft Budget and Medium Term-Financial Strategy to 2026/27 report to Cabinet in November, leading up to the final budget in January 2022.

In order to address the gap for 2022/23 whilst laying the foundations to tackle the much larger medium-term pressures, a “Twin Track” approach has been launched. Track 1 focuses on meeting our statutory duty to set a balanced budget for 2022/23. Track 2, under development simultaneously, identifies a number of cross-cutting opportunities focused around delivering organisational priorities within a constrained funding envelope. Further details will be set out in the November Cabinet report, with Member engagement planned between now and the finalisation of the budget. Resident engagement is underway on the budget and will be reflected in the draft and final budget reports.

Social Value – Procurement Overview: Procurement continues to embed Social Value principles in all the tendering activity, using the Social Value (SV) Charter, to ensure open, fair, and transparent method for evaluating the SV proposals. Last year £4.7m of SV commitments have been secured through the procurement process. We are also involved in a number of other activities aimed to promote SV principles, to support the VCFS and share best practice internally with commissioners, procurement, and contract managers. SCC Social Value Policy was developed signed off and published on the SCC website, together with priority areas and action plan [Social Value - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-value). Last year (FY 20/21) SCC spent £452.5m with local suppliers (49.36% of total spend). This year (FY 21/22 YTD Aug'21) SCC spent £182.4m with local suppliers (51.03% of total spend). *Figures taken from SAP (Orbis Procurement Spend Data).

Public Finance Awards 2021: I am delighted to share the news that the SCC Finance team won the ‘Finance Training & Development Initiative’ award at this year’s Public Finance Awards, for their work developing and implementing the Finance Academy. The Finance Academy is a vital part of the Council’s wider Finance Improvement Programme and enables us to drive forward a shift in financial management culture across the organisation. This is great news for the profile of Surrey County Council, and a fantastic recognition of all the work and effort that has gone into developing the Finance Academy.

Digital: At the last Digital Programme Board, findings from the Gartner Digital Maturity Scorecard benchmarking exercise, undertaken earlier this year, were considered. These highlighted that the programme is currently in Gartner’s top quartile for digital maturity for the public sector. Sector leading achievements include citizen experience, collaboration and leveraging automation. Areas of focus to achieve heightened levels of digital maturity included data, design and ensuring sustainable funding and actions have been taken to respond, including the development of the Digital Operating Model and Digital design team which brings diverse teams collaboratively around problems to ensure we are baking in the digital elements from the start, and the development of the digital funding bid beyond 21/22. This focuses on moving digital away from just being about capability to being a core design and delivery function which aligns to the maturity of digital within SCC.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Steve Bax

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader

Performance Management: The Performance Insights Team (formally the IAI BI Team) continues to work with service colleagues to develop and improve our performance products, including the Tableau Corporate Reporting Dashboard and Cabinet Performance Reports, to provide meaningful insight to senior leaders. The Tableau Dashboard now includes a supplementary information tab which shows service KPIs in one place with a performance trend for the last six months and a link for members to access the Surrey Index (a dashboard which can be used to understand social, environmental, economic and health outcomes in Surrey at a local level and compare how different areas in Surrey are progressing).

We will be running an 'informal' performance session for the Resources and Performance Select Committee in October 2021. This will be a dedicated performance conversation focusing on Customers, HR&OD, Transformation and Resources (the programmes within the select committee's remit). The team have also worked hard to ensure that the latest R&PSC report now meets the national accessibility standards. The team also lead a Business Intelligence Community of Practice within the Council, to share and develop ideas for performance improvement, and the next quarterly meeting is expected in November. We are developing our performance approach to align with the principles of our performance operating model and will be working with Executive Directors and service leads over the next few months to ensure that the dashboards are in line with service recovery plans, as well as adding sections for new Partnerships, Prosperity & Growth, Customer & Communities and Public Service Reform directorates.

The Population Insight Team is now at full strength, having recruited two staff to join the existing Data Scientist. The team is focussed on cataloguing and refreshing the content of the Surrey-I reference resource, so this content can be sustainably and reliably maintained, expanded, and improved upon. A programme of additional insight reports and data content will be prioritised in line with user requests and feedback. The team is supporting the Digital Exclusion project of SODA, with identification of at-risk communities, and scoping further projects to deliver through this network. It is also preparing to expand Customer segmentation analyses to support service provision, performance improvements and greater cost efficiencies.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI): Our work to make Surrey County Council a fairer, more inclusive, and compassionate council continues going from strength to strength. We once again sponsored Pride in Surrey this year, which took place in Godalming on 25 September. The event was a great success and sponsoring Pride sends a clear message of our support for Surrey's LGBTQ+ residents. We unveiled a rainbow road crossing on Flambard Way in Godalming – the first of its kind on a public road in Surrey. I thank the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure for driving this forward. I remind Members that October is Black History Month. It also marks the first anniversary since staff set up the Minority Ethnic Group and Allies (MEGA) network. Our Chair, Helyn Clack, has written a message of support that recognises and celebrates the culture and contributions of people of African and Caribbean descent to our country and county. A number of events aimed at Members and our staff are planned.

I updated the Resources and Performance Select Committee on our EDI work on 17 September. We covered a range of topics from how we should be supporting Surrey's travelling showman community to the work we are doing to increase representation of BAME and other under-represented groups in the council's senior leadership. I welcome the Committee's positive engagement with this work, which has given me clear issues I will be following up with officers on. Closer to home, Katie Stewart has stepped down as the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) EDI sponsor. I want to pay tribute to her fantastic leadership in progressing our EDI agenda. Michael Coughlin is the new CLT sponsor, and I look forward to working with him and the team to keep up the momentum on EDI.

Communications & Branding: The Communications (Comms) team operate free from political interference and use their expertise to determine how best to promote and highlight the work of Surrey County Council, though Members play an important part in sharing the information provided by Comms to better inform residents about the role of the Council. To assist Members, regular bulletins are produced by the Comms team which include the Daily Summary, the weekly Top Lines Brief on a Monday (including our responses and rebuttals), and a Parliamentary Brief on Friday – Comms are also producing a dashboard for Members showing the impact and reach of our various messages. I am pleased to see that during August (traditionally quiet) our posts attracted 600,000 views on Facebook, 308,000 on Twitter and 208,000 on Instagram.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: Environment

Climate Change: Over the last three months, officers have been developing and finalising the Climate Change Delivery Plan (2021- 2025). This has involved comprehensive engagement with stakeholders and partners, including Districts and Boroughs, as well as residents and community groups, including two community workshops with over one hundred attendees. A Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee member reference group was set up and has participated in four workshops making a number of recommendations that have influenced the Delivery Plan.

Alongside this, officers have been developing a programme which sets out how the Council will achieve net zero carbon for its operations by 2030 as well as working with consultants Atkins to develop a Greener Futures Finance Strategy, which provides costings for the net zero targets and sets out investment approaches to finance the necessary carbon reduction activity. The Council has been selected, to develop a COP26 Green Zones event on 10 November focussing on decarbonising transport in a rural county which will be filmed and live streamed into the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

Rethinking Waste: We continue to see elevated levels of all wastes collected at households compared with 2019/20, however tonnages have declined slightly from those seen in 2020/21. The national shortage of HGV drivers is starting to impact garden waste collections in some districts and boroughs and is having an effect on Suez's ability to remove material from the waste transfer stations. Early results from a composition analysis of kerbside collected material indicates that food is still the most prevalent recyclable material left in residual waste, particularly in flatted properties and this reinforces the importance of the work that we are undertaking with the Surrey Environment Partnership to increase the capture of food waste from flatted properties. Our rethinking Waste Transformation Project continues to progress well, baseline data gathering for the re-procurement of our waste contract is largely complete and we are mobilising additional resources and obtaining advice to support the development of specifications and contracts with the aim of going out to tender for waste services in summer 2022. It is expected that contracts would be awarded in September 2023 which would allow twelve months for mobilisation.

Countryside: Work is progressing well in the Countryside Estate; the Discovery Centre and toilets at Newlands Corner are due to be completed this autumn, new natural play equipment has been installed at Chinthurst Hill with more to come at Young Street in Norbury Park this autumn. The Norbury Park Community Forum has reconvened, and Officers will be launching a vision for Norbury Park which supports the Council's aims to support conservation and recreation at the site in October, including piloting rewilding. We are actively exploring occupants for the sawmill site. Over 235,000 trees were planted in Surrey last year and the Council was successful this month at securing £300,000 for planting an additional 34,000 trees.

Flood and Climate Resilience: Surrey experienced heavy rainfall events in June and July 2021 which caused localised surface water flooding in a number of areas across the county. Approximately 580 properties were reported to be flooded, with 89 of those experiencing water inside the living space of the property. Predominant locations identified as effected from these storms are the Worcester Park area in Epsom and Ewell and the Nork and Tattenhams areas in Reigate and Banstead. Ongoing investigation to confirm the number of properties affected with formal "Section 19" reports being produced for the two areas are underway. These and other investigations will produce recommendations which will be shared with Risk Management Authorities to mitigate flood risk. In areas where this is more challenging or difficult to achieve, work will take place with communities to support education and resilience to prepare and reduce the impact of future flooding.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy: World EV Day on 9 September was marked in Surrey by the switch on of the first ten public EV chargepoints in Waverley as part of the LEP funded installation of 80 chargers in four boroughs. The remaining installations are planned to take place over the coming weeks and will be complete by March 2022. Only a handful of proposed locations remain contested by residents and/or Councillors and negotiations are continuing to resolve matters. Work is nearing completion on a submission for On Street Residential Chargepoint funding of 75%, the remainder to be funded by Surrey. Following a funding award, we would expect installation by the end of Q1 2022. For the longer term roll out of public EV chargepoints we have a direct procurement opportunity to engage Connected Kerb for the installation of Fast and Rapid chargers across the county. This option is being carefully appraised and the options of continuing to progress on a project-by-project basis, as now, or approving contracting a concession with Connected Kerb will be put to Cabinet in December.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matt Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Transport and Infrastructure

Bus Back Better: This is the new National Bus Strategy. It requires Local Transport Authorities to set out how they will we get more people to travel by bus post-Covid. It aims to give more control over bus services and potentially new powers to Local Transport Authorities, including moving traffic offences. Bus Back Better has £3 billion of funding nationally. Responding positively to the challenge set, on 29 June I formally agreed that this Council will develop an Enhanced Partnership scheme with all bus operators to deliver on the ambitions of Bus Back Better. This will support the delivery of our new Surrey Transport Plan's aims and objectives, particularly those relating to modal shift, reducing emissions, and prioritising a hierarchy of mode. It will be also be a key component in delivering our Greener Futures Programme. Cabinet will consider the detail our Bus Back Better proposals on 26 October.

Preparing for Winter: The last winter season finished in April and Surrey officers have been working with Kier colleagues throughout the summer maintaining equipment and preparing for this coming season. Great credit goes to Kier this year as despite pressure of the national driver shortage, they increased the number of drivers available for SCC winter service, ensuring resilience of HGV drivers for all the routes. Salt deliveries have been delivered through the summer. Full stocks of 12,600 ton are in place and Surrey, Kier and Parish colleagues have now inspected each of our 1,800 grit bins and the programme of fills, repairs and replacements is getting underway now and will be completed in the next month. Each of our Farmer and 3rd party contractor partners has been contacted and arrangements organised for their ploughs to be maintained and for salt to be delivered. Salt deliveries to the eleven Districts and Boroughs (Ds&Bs) have also been arranged so they can support efforts to keep the network safe during snow and ice. We have continued working with the Local Resilience Forum to plan how our winter response will be targeted to support testing and vaccination operations for a second winter. During September we have been monitoring the mid-range (2 to 4 week) forecast to make sure we are ready if there is an early cold snap - at time of writing this we are not expecting any cold weather in October, but forecasts beyond a week or two are changeable so we will be monitoring this daily.

Road and Pavement Programme Update: Our contractors have been working hard since the beginning of the financial year on our planned road and pavement programmes. Since April we have completed 54 miles of carriageway resurfacing works which includes resurfacing 13 miles of road and carrying out preventative surface dressing on 39 miles plus 2 miles of treatments that include some innovative solutions such as concrete fine milling which has a lower carbon footprint than traditional treatments and provides a longer lasting finish. We have also treated 19 miles of pavements. We still have over 10 miles of treatments to carry out on roads over the coming months along with another 15 miles of pavement treatments.

Number of trees planted on highway: The County Council is committed to increasing the number of trees on the network. In July I confirmed that we had installed over 300 street trees and a further 3000 whips (smaller trees). Since July we have only planted 9 trees as we do not undertake general planting in the summer months. However, there are plans to plant a further 9000 whips and over 300 street trees in the next 6 months, the locations of which have been suggested by residents.

Infrastructure: Following the adoption of the Surrey Infrastructure Prioritisation framework by Cabinet in February and subsequent engagement with all the Ds&Bs, and both Local Enterprise Partnerships, a first phase of schemes has been identified, for which will be recommended for approval to implement to Cabinet in October. These schemes have been selected based on their intended outcomes, support from the D&Bs and availability of time limited match funding. A second phase has been identified which contains a list of schemes that require further development before they can be recommended for approval. There will be ongoing engagement with the Ds&Bs and partners to continue the pipeline and ensure SCC is able to respond to funding opportunities for a range of infrastructure schemes as they arise.

Healthy Streets: The second phase of the review of the County Council's street design guidance has just started with 'Create Streets'. Phase 1 established the general concepts, with phase 2 developing more detailed guidance. This is due to be completed and adopted by the Council in Spring/Summer 2022.

Surrey Minerals and Waste Local Plan: The Issues and Options consultation which is the first phase of public consultation for the new plan is due to commence at the end of October and will last for sixteen weeks.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Property

Overview: The new Interim Director of Land & Property (L&P), Simon Crowther, joined in July. His immediate priorities are to work with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and to drive forward the priorities set out in the Asset & Place Strategy 2019-2030. There has been one recent structural change with the transfer of the Health Estate lead Oliver Judges, from L&P's SLT to the Public Sector Reform function, which provides greater clarity on the governance and responsibility for delivering joint Surrey/Health initiatives. The L&P SLT has been establishing improved governance and reporting for all projects and programmes with the respective services.

Financial Improvement Plan: Significant emphasis is now given to accurate cost forecasting. Budget holders have completed 'Finance Academy' workshops. Financial monitoring, workflows, and reporting continues to be developed in Planon to provide enhanced management information and tracking. The Capital Programme will use new project monitoring tools (delivery assurance office, a specialist construction industry PMO). PAMS/ Planon successfully interfaces with SCC SAP and eventually Unit 4/ My Surrey.

Net Zero: L&P is working closely with the Surrey Greener Futures Team to develop a programme that reduces the estate's carbon footprint and supports the achievement of NetZero by 2030. SCC was successful with a Salix award of £1.6 million under Phase 1 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to replace fossil fuel boilers and install solar panels across 7 operational sites. Funding of £260,000 has been awarded to develop detailed heat decarbonisation plans for 39 buildings. Further bids are ongoing under the PSDS.

Portfolio Rationalisation: Significant progress has been made in reviewing the non-operational portfolio. We have now assessed almost 90% of the 1,200 land and buildings and identified: 115 potential assets for Natural Capital, 523 assets to be 'transferred' to Highways team; 20 sites for HGR; our current core disposals list of 37 assets (in preparation or progress); and another 20 sites to be retained for potential service use. In reviewing the asset list, we have highlighted approximately 90 assets held as garden licences, and a further c.100 small scale assets which need a closer review as they may offer opportunities to bring forward additional disposals.

Capital programme: Delivery continues at pace and can ramp up further with new four-year appointments established for project management, cost management, contract administration, architectural, and engineering services. As of the end of Sept 2021, 16 projects have been recently completed comprising: 7 Schools Basic Need (SBN) projects, 5 Special Educational Needs (SEND) projects, and the remainder from Priority Schools Programme (PSPB2), Adult Learning, Surrey Outdoor Learning (SOLD) and Surrey Choices. In respect of the SEND programme the above and previously completed projects have delivered 290 additional places from September 2021. Several contracts have been awarded for the Looked After Children programme and start on site in the next quarter.

Investment portfolio: The Commercial team continues to work proactively with our tenants against the backdrop of the Covid pandemic, achieving a 93% rental collection rate and recovery of rents due. The residential portfolio is on target to exceed the income generation as set out in the annual business plan.

Systems & Data: Since Planon go-live in April c.20,000 orders have been generated for hard and soft FM activities as part of Phase 1A. All SCCs contractors will use Planon to record work orders and report progress. Phase 2 will cover major capital projects (high level financial tracking), condition data, spatial information, surplus property management, transactions, valuations, and the introduction of an app for mobile operatives in the field. L&P experts inform the configuration of system, followed by user acceptance testing and training. During 2022 the Planon team will develop further modules to support the wider SCC transformation programme.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Communities

Active Surrey: The Movement for Change Strategy launched this week; activation groups will be formed to drive forward the strategy's priorities. Club4 went well over the summer with 36,000 holiday camp places. 89 bikes have been purchased for Surrey's looked after children and care leavers through a joint project with the Corporate Parenting Board. The Secondary Education Teacher Training programme on physical activity was launched across fifty Surrey schools and will support secondary schools to make a healthy, active school a whole school priority.

Arts Service: three weeks of holiday activities delivered as part of the Club4 Holiday and food scheme with over 200 places attended by young people participating in music, dance, and healthy eating activities. Culture Box Surrey, Better Lives Project is going well, and delivery partner Watts Gallery completed the Hope project with St Mays primary school where pupils reflected on what brings them hope. A new Syrian Youth ensemble (Together at Home) is being launched shortly. The service is supporting the newly settled Afghan families through the expansion of its I Speak Music programme.

Heritage & Libraries: Surrey History Centre fully reopened from July and orders for digital copies continue to remain strong as do their talks held via Zoom. Surrey Heritage's Archaeology Team have been working with Runnymede and the National Trust carrying out geophysics as part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project, Runnymede Explored Project. The Anarchist mobile library, an immersive theatre show for children and families visited seven locations and delivered shows to 347 people. Libraries have delivered over 250 events and delivered two major campaigns –The Reading Agencies Summer Reading Challenge to maintain children's reading levels during the break and the Surrey Nature Explorer Campaign to promote use of libraries and enjoyment of the countryside.

Registration & Nationality Service: In August 1197 births and 801 deaths were registered and 858 notices of marriage were completed. We also completed 229 Citizenship ceremonies and issued 6,582 registration certificates. The service worked with IT to develop a new robot to automatically remind couples to complete their legal preliminaries. Demand for birth registrations and notice of marriage appointments has remained high and we have recruited additional staff to cope with demand.

Customer Services: Our most recent data shows that the Learners Single Point of Access within Customer Services has freed up 152 working days for specialist staff to focus on supporting vulnerable children. We are delighted to be selected as finalists for the LGC team of the year award alongside the ICS UK Customer Satisfaction awards announced earlier in the year.

Your Fund Surrey: YFS has seen an incredible public response across the County with 185 submissions this year. Currently there are nearly 13,000 ideas pinned and 125,000 people have visited the commonplace map, with over 10,000 subscribers to the YFS newsletter updates. The Your Fund Advisory panel met in September to consider the first two community lead projects under the fund and will be convening monthly.

Community Engagement: Newlands Corner, Egham and High Ashurst to start local conversations with residents about Make it Happen, the council's campaign to help them join up with others in their communities to help them thrive. Officers from other teams joined us to gather resident views and are now supporting some residents to explore their ideas. Further exciting engagement activities and community visits are now underway including our presence at Surrey Pride on 25 September 2021.

VCFS: Inaugural meeting of the Surrey Interfaith Forum brought together Faith Leaders to work with us across priorities for county such as welcoming refugees, supporting with accommodation and integration. The next meeting will be focusing on 'greener futures'. Three new sites have been added in Tadworth and Surrey Heath Leisure Centres and the Guildford Community Centre for Period Dignity Surrey. Uptake has been high and so has the level of donations making the initiative self-sustaining. The team have been working closely to maximise support to communities and given grants to support with the pandemic response and recovery. These have been matched through public donations taking the total to £2.7 million, supporting over 225 organisations and approximately 200,000 residents in Surrey.

Community Protection Group Activities: In November the Community Protection Group will be publishing a review of the progress we have made since all our public facing statutory services came together as a new single Directorate in 2019. It will describe all the work we have done and the changes and reforms that have taken place so far.

Trading Standards: In October “Natasha’s law” will come into effect. This legislation requires ingredient and allergen labelling for foods which are prepared and packaged where they are sold. Trading Standards have been working with businesses to put together guidance, including developing a video, to support them to prepare for this change and ensure this important information is given to people so they can make safe informed choices.

Corporate Health and Safety: The health and safety Centre of Excellence is having a positive impact on the wider health and safety team across the Council with more effective use of resources and improved resilience. There has been a marked improvement in the uptake of mandatory health and safety training across the organisation. A communications campaign targeted at staff in Surrey Fire and Rescue Service begins in October to raise awareness of what a ‘near miss’ looks like within the service and increase the number of reports being made. A QR code has been developed to allow quick and simple reporting from any device, which will run alongside the current online system.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service: SFRS launched a new Safe & Well Visits (SAWV’s) campaign this month. The aim is to get into the homes of hard-to-reach vulnerable people by using targeted advertising (such as pharmacy bags) to raise awareness of the free visits which help to keep people safe. The new c.£1 million secondary 999 Control Centre at Woodhatch Place, Reigate will be operational in October. The coming month East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service will join our 999 Control Centre along with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. Bringing together for the first time the 999 Fire call receipt and despatch for the whole of Surrey and Sussex into a single team based in a single call centre. The results of the second full inspection by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services will be published in December. Members and the public will be updated once the results are known.

Community Resilience: Surrey Prepared has been out and about at Guildford Fire Station and Surrey Pride promoting key messages to residents and highlighting support available for vulnerable people. Working with partners across the Council and the Environment Agency, the latest Surrey Prepared communications toolkit contains key messaging around flood prevention including signing up to flood alerts, riparian responsibilities and the importance of clearing gutters and drains.

Armed Forces Covenant: Surrey County Council has led a third successful cross border bid to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for £25,000. Further training for frontline staff, managers, and councillors across Surrey, East and West Sussex, Kent and Hampshire will be delivered from October. This will highlight the needs of the armed forces community, sources of support and the requirements of the new Armed Forces Covenant legislation. Veteran Hubs in Guildford and Fordbridge Fire Stations have now restarted and are providing support and camaraderie for local veterans. On 30 September the Guildford hub was visited by Chelsea Pensioners who treated the veterans to a ‘Pace Sticking’ display.

Emergency Planning: The team have been at the forefront of the current ‘fuel-gate’ crisis working with all of the partners in Surrey Local Resilience Forum helping all county council service coordinate and prioritise activities during the shortages. An external ISO audit across all County Council services starts in October with an aim of enhancing SCC’s business continuity plans and embedding these into our everyday thinking and practice across the Council. Preparations and planning for the winter across all services is underway. Assurance will be provided to the Local Resilience Forum that SCC services are ready to deliver their services to the public and help support partners should there be a major incident this winter.

Coroners: The Coroner’s Service has undergone a transformation and reform programme to improve operational delivery, including introduction of a new transparent complaints and compliments case management system, standard operating procedures for the coronial processes, training for all staff and an intensive recruitment programme. The emphasis being on the families of the bereaved. There is a continued focus on setting up a fit for purpose new body storage facility which is required as part of the County Council’s response to excess deaths for over Winter periods and in major incidents. A business case for a long-term solution in the form of a public mortuary is in development.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Clare Curran

PORTFOLIO: Children and Families

Corporate Parenting Board (CPB): The CPB has sponsored and supported a range of schemes and projects to ensure children and young people in care can access opportunities to achieve their potential; including local apprenticeships and negotiating county-wide furniture discounts with charities. A bicycle scheme was also piloted this Summer as children and young people have told us that they want bicycles 'to keep fit', and 'to be more independent'. 89 new and refurbished bicycles with helmets and locks have been given to young people in and leaving care. The Celebration Fund, to which Members have generously contributed, recognises and rewards looked after children and care leavers for their achievements. This year it has increased capacity for funding through contributions from Health, Active Surrey and Private Organisations and has received over 150 applications so far.

CPB Members are linked to our community homes within Surrey and will shortly be receiving training to better understand the homes and the regulations they are governed by. They will then begin to build relationships with their linked homes, including visits, to gain an insight into the day-to-day operations and challenges faced by staff and those they care for. This scheme helps the Board to advocate knowledgeably for these important services.

Unaccompanied asylum seekers: The National Transfer Scheme seeks to distribute responsibility for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children more fairly across the UK. Although we do not endorse the voluntary rota scheme currently in operation (advocating instead for a mandatory scheme covering all local authorities) we have accepted 7 referrals in recent weeks, including a child currently in Scotland which will enable us to reunite them with a family member already in Surrey.

In September 2021, the Council became aware that the Home Office had dispersed some asylum-seekers in Surrey hotels who had been screened by the Home Office and deemed to be adults. From one hotel we received legal challenge for twelve of these, claiming to be children; eight have been assessed and seven were considered to be children, and are now in our care. More information is being sought on the remaining four individuals to determine next steps. In another, twenty-six individuals were referred to us. Our assessments concluded that twenty of these were children and six were adults. Placements were sourced on the day and all the children were placed in care.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit: This took place in September, in relation to Care Leavers. The inspectors were on-site and interviewed staff members and young people. The formal outcome of the visit is expected to be published in a letter on 12 October, but initial feedback indicates that, overall, the inspectors identified sound work across all domains of young people's wellbeing, and examples of good practice - they particularly highlighted our strong offer and support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. There were no issues raised by inspectors that we were not already aware of. We are particularly pleased that the Covid-19 pandemic has not had a negative impact on our Care Leavers, and this is a credit to the hard work of our practitioners and managers over the last eighteen months, with the increased payments being made to them throughout this period being vital in many cases.

Safeguarding: In 2019, the Directorate launched the Family Resilience approach, which includes a whole family approach to child protection via the Family Safeguarding Model. The top three safeguarding referrals are parental domestic abuse, parental mental health, and parental drug and alcohol use. The Model brings together different professionals who work together as one team to provide the specialist help and support families need. The teams work with parents, to support them to create sustained change, for themselves and their children with the aim to keep more children safely at home with their families. Across Surrey, we have twenty-two Family Safeguarding Teams working with 1,878 children.

Surrey's Domestic Abuse Strategy shapes the support offer for families, victims and perpetrators which is part of this offer. Our Family Safeguarding Teams have twenty-two domestic abuse practitioners and officers – eleven practitioners working with children and women and eleven officers, with a probation background, working with men. The teams are also trained in Motivational Interviewing, a technique used to support behaviour change, tapping into the strengths and resources within the family and wider support network to improve the safety of vulnerable children and families.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Education and Learning

Children and Young People: In my last update to Council, I outlined a number of planned initiatives for the school summer holidays to support children and young people to be active and healthy, to encourage the development of speech, language and reading skills and to bolster children's mental wellbeing. I am pleased to be able to update on developments that continue this important collaborative work for children and young people as we enter the new academic year.

Bringing learning outdoors - Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD): As we know, learning does not only take place in the classroom. The benefits of learning in the natural environment, for physical and mental health, educational attainment, and personal development are well documented. Surrey has outstanding outdoor spaces and a well-regarded and experienced outdoor learning service (SOLD) which reaches some 67,000 children and young people every year, including some of our most vulnerable, and those with additional needs and disability. As Surrey moves into recovery following the COVID pandemic, the activities and services offered by SOLD become even more vital to restore the health and wellbeing of the county's residents.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the recent decision by Cabinet to invest £6.2 million in a wholesale upgrade of one of Surrey's well-used outdoor learning centres, Thames Young Mariners. The investment will bring the facilities up to modern standards, make them accessible to all children and extend the centre to year-round use. This means more children, including those with disabilities and significant behavioural challenges, can access the learning and support that SOLD offers and the benefits which that can bring to their lives.

Healthy Schools in Surrey: I would like to share with you the Surrey Healthy Schools whole system approach to wellbeing, health, and achievement. We launched this approach last year and continue to strengthen Surrey's partnership working to reduce inequality – supporting schools, children and young people, and the wider community through the use of the tools and training available. Our partners across the county are embedding Surrey Healthy Schools within their strategies and action planning with an increasingly joined up approach to universal prevention.

I am pleased to say that 150 schools are now using the Self-Evaluation Tool and an additional 30 schools will be attending training this Autumn. Feedback from schools highlights that they value the holistic nature of the training which is delivered by the Council's Surrey Healthy Schools Lead and Specialist Teachers for Inclusive Practice, the User Voice and Participation Team, School Nursing, Mindworks Surrey, and Active Surrey. The webpages <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/healthy-schools> provide up to date information for Surrey partners and schools and celebrates the achievements of schools already developing a Surrey Healthy Schools approach.

Expanding children's educational and cultural opportunities through capital investment: I updated Council before the summer on the scale and pace at which the Council is investing in capital improvements in our school estate, including £79.6 million to deliver over 1,600 specialist local school places and a further £23m for five new pupil referral units to provide high quality alternative provision for our children who need it. This investment makes a tangible difference to our children's educational outcomes and opportunities and continues to expand with the opening last month at Ash Manor School, of a new Performing Arts Centre specialist Music and Drama curriculum spaces and two Science labs. These facilities opened on time for the new academic year and the students are already using the spaces for high-quality learning and performing. We have also invited local residents to see the facilities and encouraged them to come up with ideas for the community use of these cultural assets for the benefit of everyone.

No child left behind: And finally, I would like to share a positive story from our Speech and Language Service. They have been working over the past year with a pupil challenged with speech that was very difficult to understand and who consequently had very low self-esteem. Through his own efforts and the support he has received at home and at school, he is now fully understandable and proud of the speech targets he has achieved, as are we.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults and Health

Budget Update and Government reforms: There continues to be significant pressure on the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget, with a £6.6 million overspend against the 2021/22 budget forecast at the end of July. This is the result of a significant increase in care package commitments and a substantial increase in their average cost, due to increased needs and in part the impact of discharge to assess from hospitals. An action plan is being developed to improve the position in the remainder of the year and reduce commitments in future years when resources will continue to be constrained. Consideration will also be given to whether any temporary Covid funding could be used to mitigate some of the care package pressure in 2021/22.

In relation to the recent announcement of Government reforms to ASC, the Council will work hard to present a realistic position of the current pressures within the service, with a view to promoting a fair distribution of the funding made available by government. It is also important that we continue to lobby for additional funding in 2022/23, not only to address current financial pressures but also to support planning for the implementation of the cap on care costs and other system changes in 2023.

Accommodation with Care and Support: The feasibility assessments of the sites identified for Extra Care Housing or Supported Independent Living continue and will be used to develop the business cases to be presented to Cabinet for approval. Design Specifications for these are progressing well. The scope of the Accommodation with Care and Support programme for people with mental health needs is close to completion and will also be presented to Cabinet for approval. Significant progress has been made with the market and we have planned for around one hundred units of Supported Independent Living to be made available through our care home deregistration programme, subject to approval from the Care Quality Commission and agreement of rental charges by the relevant district and borough council.

Technology Enabled Care: Phase 2 of the Enabling You with Technology transformation programme began in September 2021, with the roll out of the service to people supported by ASC in the Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge areas, to test the remote monitoring solutions at scale. Planning for phase 3 of the programme is also underway with the development of a mobile response service and an option for self-funders to purchase.

Covid-19: From 11 November, new regulations mean all care home workers, and anyone entering a care home, will need to be fully vaccinated, unless they are exempt. The government and SCC are monitoring the vaccination status of people working in care homes, offering support, and ensuring business continuity plans are in place. This has impacted a small number of staff in the Council's in-house care homes resulting in a few staff leaving, but with no impact on services. No problems have yet been flagged by Surrey Care Association about the situation in the Surrey independent sector.

Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) meets bi-monthly in public and continues to provide political direction for Surrey's Covid-19 outbreak response, receiving regular updates from SCC services and partners. Partnership work has been vital in ensuring that residents and organisations are fully involved and updated, through communications campaigns and the Community Covid-19 Champions Programme extending across nine of Surrey's eleven District and Borough Councils.

ICS Board and Governance update: The Health and Care Bill sets out that from April 2022, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) will be on a statutory footing operating as local organisations (dissolving CCGs) supported by two Boards, which will make up the ICS:

- Integrated Care Board (ICB) - statutory NHS body.
- Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) - local authorities and the NHS – with responsibility for agreeing an Integrated Care Strategy.

There was a national announcement on ICS boundaries in July and a decision taken that Frimley ICS boundary will remain unchanged. This means that Surrey County Council will need to continue engaging with two ICSs. We are working with colleagues in health to the support preparation for when ICSs become statutory in April 2022 and providing our input on ICS development more broadly.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Maureen Attewell

PORTFOLIO: Children and Lifelong Learning

Youth Offer Achievements: September has been a busy and varied month of work for the Youth Offer Team. In addition to its ongoing contribution of 236 hours of staff time to the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) rota service, we supported the relocation and assessment of a group of young asylum seekers. The Children and Young People (CYP) Havens reopened two of the four drop-in sessions this month and now offer a combination of four days per week face to face work made up of two afternoon/evenings in Guildford and two in Epsom covering Monday to Thursday, alongside the phone line and online service which operates throughout the week. Each of the face-to-face sessions has been attended by at least one young person since we reopened. The centre opening is phased for us to understand the impact of winter on the Covid virus transmission and so will remain at just two of the four centres for the foreseeable future.

The team also continue to deliver targeted group sessions to the LGBT+ and Young Carer communities. Youth Offer Projects and Targeted Sessions face to face work continues to be delivered with young people across the following projects:

- Carpentry Workshop (East and West Bases)
- Cycle Workshop
- GASP Motor Project
- Digital Music Project
- Junction Wellbeing Drop In (Woking)
- Twister LGBTQ Groups in Woking, Redhill and Guildford
- Glee LGBTQ Group (Sunbury)
- Young Carers Group (Redhill, Walton and Woking)
- Imagine Programme
- Skill Mill
- Slow Grow
- CYP Haven drop ins in Guildford & Epsom

Launch of Mindworks Surrey – the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service for children: At this time, we are keenly aware that more young people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing following the pandemic. Our new alliance of NHS and national and local voluntary organisations to support emotional wellbeing and mental health has led to the launch of 'Mindworks Surrey'. The emphasis of Mindworks Surrey is on giving children and young people a central voice in decisions about their care and our children and young people were instrumental in co-producing the new child-friendly website www.mindworks-surrey.org. It is a source of essential information, including how to ask for help in a crisis via the 24/7 Crisis Line. It also features a dedicated area for professionals including schools and GPs.

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